

## Dover Gas Light Superfund Site Update

**February 1994**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently released the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (Proposed Plan) for Operable Unit 1 of the Dover Gas Light Superfund Site. The Proposed Plan describes various cleanup alternatives to address contaminated ground water (water located beneath the earth's surface that is commonly used as a drinking water source) at the Site and surrounding areas and soils at the location of the former coal gas plant. The Proposed Plan also includes EPA's preferred method for cleaning up those portions of the Site included in Operable Unit 1. A second Operable Unit, Operable Unit 2, includes the contaminated soils of the former dry cleaner at 411 South Governor's Avenue.

EPA's release of the Proposed Plan marks the start of a public comment period which begins February 2, 1994, and ends March 4, 1994. EPA encourages the public to review the Proposed Plan and other Site-related documents in the Administrative Record file (*see reverse side for locations*) and submit comments and questions on the proposed alternatives. EPA will review all comments and questions received during the public comment period and will select a final Site cleanup alterna-

tive in consultation with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC).

The Site, located on the corner of North and New Streets in Dover, Kent County, Delaware, was formerly occupied by the Dover Gas Light Company which operated a coal gasification plant from 1859 to 1948. Currently, citizens and visitors use the one-acre parcel of land as a parking area when visiting the adjacent museum or downtown stores.

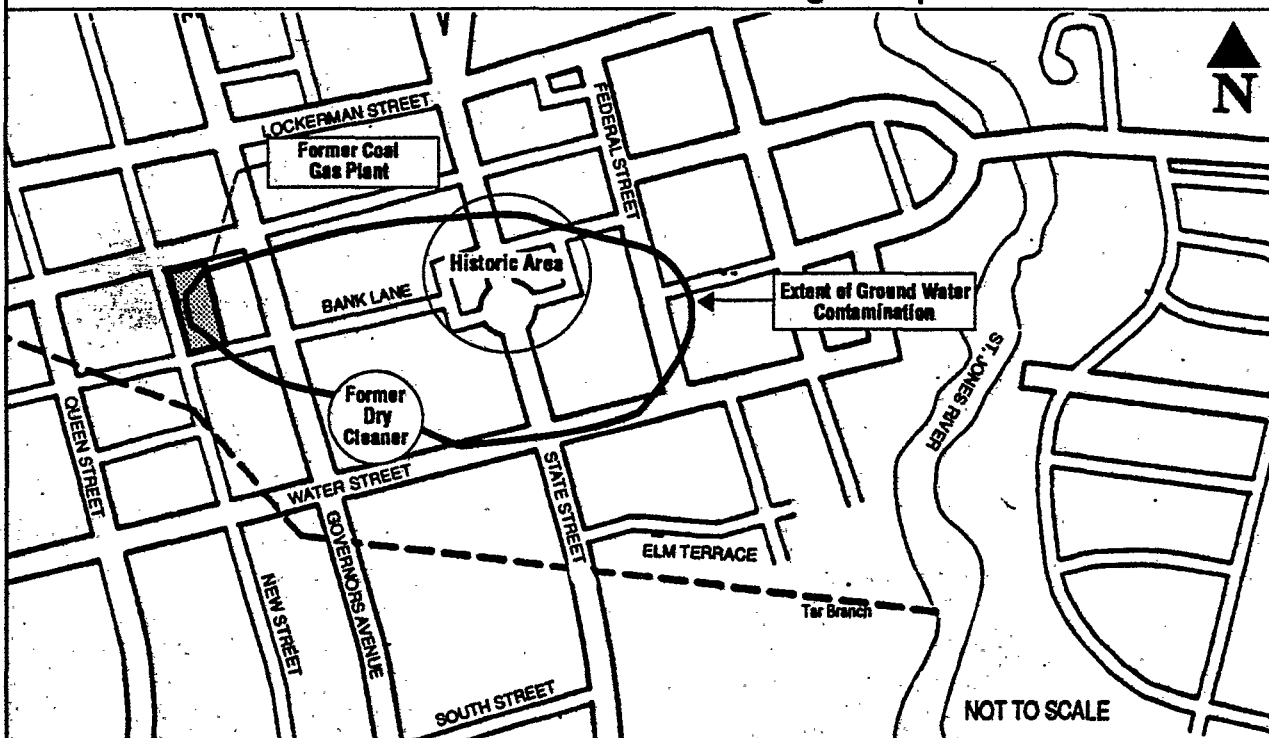
Monitoring wells sampled by EPA indicate that ground water contamination extends as far as Federal Street as indicated on the map below.

### PUBLIC MEETING

**February 17, 1994 at 7:00 PM**
*in the*
**Richardson and Robbins Building  
 (DNREC) Auditorium  
 89 Kings Highway  
 Dover, Delaware**

*EPA officials will discuss the details of the Proposed Remedial Action Plan for the Dover Gas Light Superfund Site as well as respond to questions and comments from citizens. Concerned citizens are encouraged to attend.*

### Extent of Contamination at the Dover Gas Light Superfund Site


**AR500169**

## EPA's Cleanup Alternatives

EPA used data collected during the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to prepare the Proposed Plan. The RI determined the nature and extent of contamination and the FS assessed various ways to clean up the contamination. Listed below are the cleanup alternatives outlined in the Proposed Plan.

The Proposed Plan includes four alternatives to address contaminated ground water at the Site. Alternative GW-1 is a "No Action" alternative. EPA uses this alternative to establish a baseline for comparison to the other alternatives.

Alternatives GW-2, GW-3, and GW-4 all require the same type of pump and treat system to recover the contaminated ground water, but each alternative uses a different number of recovery wells, each in a different configuration, to extract the water from the ground. Alternative GW-2 will use approximately 80 recovery wells; Alternative GW-3 will use approximately 20 recovery wells; and Alternative GW-4 will use approximately 35 recovery wells. For each alternative, EPA is considering three possible locations for the ground water treatment plant: the former coal gas facility; the location of the former dry cleaner at 411 South Governor's Avenue; and the location of the old City of Dover sewage treatment plant below the Court Street Bridge at the city maintenance facility.

The Proposed Plan also includes two alternatives to address soil contamination at the location of the former coal gasification plant. Once again, the first alternative, Alternative S-1 is a "No Action" alternative. Alternative S-2 would involve excavation and offsite disposal of contaminated soils above allowable levels, which are described in the Proposed Plan.

EPA proposes a combination of Alternative GW-3 and Alternative S-2 as its preferred alternative. This cleanup remedy would involve installing two lines of recovery wells (one along or near Federal Street and one between Governor's Avenue and State Street), pumping and treating the ground water, excavating contaminated soil, and incinerating the soils offsite. The net present worth cost of EPA's preferred alternative is \$4.9 million.

## EPA Contacts

EPA officials are available to assist community members with questions or comments regarding the Dover Gas Light Superfund Site. Terri White, the EPA's Community Relations Coordinator, keeps residents, local officials, and the media informed of ongoing Site activities. Randy Sturgeon, the EPA Remedial Project Manager, oversees all technical work at the Site. All written comments on the Proposed Plan must be postmarked by March 4, 1994 and submitted to one of the EPA officials listed below at U.S. EPA Region III, 841 Chestnut Building, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

Terri White (3EA21), Community Relations Coordinator  
(215) 597-6925

Randy Sturgeon (3HW42), Remedial Project Manager  
(215) 597-0978

## Information Repositories

EPA encourages citizens to learn more about the Dover Gas Light Superfund Site so they may take an active role in the Superfund process. EPA has established two information repositories to provide community access to the Site Administrative Record. The Administrative Record file contains Site-related documents which will be used by EPA to make a final selection of a cleanup alternative. Copies of the Proposed Plan may be obtained from the repositories. The repositories are listed below.

Dover Public Library  
45 South State Street  
Dover, DE 19901  
(302) 736-7030



State Library of Delaware  
43 S. Du Pont Highway  
Dover, DE 19901  
(302) 739-4748

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region III (3EA21)  
841 Chestnut Building  
Philadelphia, PA 19107**

***Inside: Dover Gas Light Superfund Site  
Public Meeting Information***

AR500170